

As a journalist and a citizen, I am deeply concerned about the FCC's apparent willingness to end important laws barring cross-ownership of media. As the recent Clear Channel war protest debacle has made clear, the more media outlets one company can own, the fewer venues Americans have for expressing our views on important political and social matters. Our Constitutional right to freedom of the press requires that the press be truly free-- not under Rupert Murdoch's thumb, or anyone else's. When conglomerates own multiple sources of news and entertainment, the options available to the public decrease, and the opportunities for corruption skyrocket. Additionally, in a multinational world, where chain stores have replaced mom-'n'-pop stores, it is essential to protect local voices-- see a recent disaster where Indiana police were unable to contact their "local" radio stations to warn the community about a chemical spill on the highway because that station was owned by a distant conglomerate that had cut local staffing and didn't care about local emergencies. Opening up cross-ownership would be a terrible, destructive move for the American people, and I am shocked that the FCC is even considering it.